

FUTURE EARTH - OCEAN

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and

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Future Earth Secretariat is carrying activities related to ocean science on a regular basis. In addition of liaising with the research projects SOLAS and IMBeR (through funding, sharing of opportunities etc.), Future Earth Secretariat worked this year with the Ocean KAN (Knowledge Action Network) to have it become independent, through the installation of an international project office (IPO).

Sustainability Research and Innovation 2021 (SRI2021)

Future Earth organised its first “Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress (SRI2021)” from June 12-15 2021, in hybrid format. This annual event unites global sustainability leaders, experts, industry and innovators to inspire action and promote a sustainability transformation. The congress consisted in more than 100 sessions, and 14 of them were dedicated to seas’ and oceans’ science. The full congress recordings are available online at: [SRI2021 website](#).

The Ocean KAN, one of the network sponsored by Future Earth, (co-)organised 3 sessions:
[Ocean Knowledge-Action Network: Overview, Activities, and Engagement for Sustainability and Research Innovation](#)

[The Oceans Film Festival Discussion 1: Arctic Bloom and Under the Pole](#), in partnership with the Virtual Blue Decade

[The Oceans Film Festival Discussion 2: Our Planet and Reaching Blue](#), in partnership with Oceans Network Canada

And SOLAS organised and hosted one session:

[The apparent mismatch between science and policy at the air-sea interface](#)

Ocean KAN coordination by Future Earth (September 2020 – June 2021)

Since autumn 2020, Future Earth, with the Ocean KAN development team, and a group of individuals from SCOR, WCRP and the IOC-UNESCO (in their individual capacity) released a call for application to find a host for the Ocean KAN International Project Office.

After receiving 4 applications, the Selection Committee chose a French Consortium (led by CNRS) to host the Ocean KAN IPO for the coming 3 years. The IPO was officially launched in July 2021.

Ocean KAN Activities 2020-2021 – Anna Zivian and Linwood Pendleton

The Ocean KAN continued to contribute to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, with members serving on the Executive Planning Group and participating in national committee Decade meetings in the U.S., Germany, and Japan, as well as in a number of other regional Decade meetings and Laboratories. The Ocean KAN also contributed to a successful submission by the [Global Ecosystem for Ocean Solutions](#) to become a Decade programme. The Ocean KAN continues to support the Virtual Blue Decade project, the need for which became more evident than ever in this year, with both the pandemic and climate disasters showing why a new way of conducting conferences and sharing multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral knowledge is more critical than ever.

In that spirit, Ocean KAN members also participated in a number of online seminars, conferences, and events, including the Ocean Visions Summit, held completely online this year, with contributions to sessions on climate adaptation and ocean solutions. [The Ocean KAN hosted a well attended session at the Sustainability Research and Innovation Conference.](#)

Also, the Ocean KAN collaborated with the European Space Agency on the project "[Enhancing adaptation and resilience along West Africa's coasts](#)"

Papers Published by or with Ocean KAN Working Groups

[Dalton, Kathryn, Marlena Skrobe, Henry Bell, Benjamin Kantner, Dave Berndtson, Leopoldo C. Gerhardinger, and Patrick Christie. "Marine-related learning networks: shifting the paradigm toward collaborative ocean governance." *Frontiers in Marine Science* 7 \(November 2020\): 952.](#)

[OCEAN AND CLIMATE \(2021\), Ocean of Solutions to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss, Ocean & Climate Platform, p. 37](#)

[Fleming, Lora E., Michael Depledge, Timothy Bouley, Easkey Britton, Sam Dupont, Claire Eatock, Ruth Garside et al. "The ocean decade—Opportunities for oceans and human health programs to contribute to public health." \(2021\): 808-811.](#)

The Ocean KAN International Project Office

Additionally, the Ocean KAN is working with a consortium of French Research institutions to establish the Ocean KAN International Project Office (IPO) that is administered by the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), housed at the Sorbonne University, and supported by IFREMER, the French Research Institute for Development, French National Center for Space Studies, and the University of West Brittany. The French Consortium has hired Linwood PENDLETON to lead this office.

Currently, the IPO is in the process of bringing on board affiliated project offices in countries around the world. So far, discussions are well underway to establish affiliated partner offices in 3 countries in the global south. Affiliated partners will be announced once discussions are complete.

The Ocean KAN is in a transition phase that includes an Interim Steering Committee charged with recruiting a standing Steering Committee. Additionally, the initial Ocean KAN Sponsors that are not providing direct funding or support (including SCOR) will transition to an Advisory Group.

The Ocean KAN will host a ½ day hybrid innovative networking event at the Ocean Science Meeting. The event will bring together Ocean KAN partners, several Ocean Decade-endorsed programmes focusing on marine life, four Decade Networking Programmes (GEOS, SmartNet, ECOP, and Empowering Women for the Decade), and stakeholders in Brazil, South Africa, and the USA.